

The Kettle



Straits Area Audubon Society Newsletter - Est. 1983

SAAS meetings are held at **6:00 pm** on the **2nd Wednesday** of each month September through May at the Cheboygan Area Public Library, 100 S. Bailey Street. Refreshments will be provided and you may participate in door prize and raffle drawings.

The scheduling of a meeting or program in the library does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the library of the group, its activities, or of the ideas and opinions expressed during the course of meetings or programs.

To reach us by mail - **Straits Area Audubon Society**: c/o Rose Rynerson, 10490 E. US 23, Cheboygan, MI 49721

Mission Statement - The mission of the Straits Area Audubon Society is to educate the community, including its children, about conservation and enjoyment of the natural world with emphasis on the local natural communities of wildlife. This will be accomplished through regular seasonal meetings and by sponsoring field trips, classroom studies and field studies.

Join Straits Area Audubon Society

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____
CITY & STATE: _____ NEWS LETTER: [E-Mail] ___ or [US-Mail] ___

Make checks payable to:
Straits Area Audubon Society
Single Membership: \$12
Family Membership: \$15

Please mail checks to:
Rose Rynerson - Treasurer
10490 E. US 23
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Welcome Back to the Kettle

What's new for this coming SAAS Program Year is a new slate of officers and a new Pair of Editors of the Kettle. Thank you Jack Kirby for all the wonderful editions that you created and for all the help you have given (and are giving) us during this transition. We ask any and all of you to pass along your newsworthy birding (wildlife) experiences and photos, suggestions, and critiques for the Kettle and we will do our best to insure that you receive a meaningful, exciting, and interesting publication.

September Program

“Forest Management: It's For the Birds” September 9, 2015 (6:00 pm)



“Forest Management: It's For the Birds” will be presented by Brittany VanderWall. A graduate of Michigan Tech University, Brittany began working as a District Forester for the Presque Isle Conservation District in the fall of 2014. She provides non-industrial private landowners with technical assistance, education, and advice on forest management activities. Brittany

will discuss how wildlife habitat is a side effect of good forestry practices. In particular, managing the standing timber has a profound effect on songbirds. The evening is free and open to the public. Door and raffle prizes will be available to all attendees. Refreshments will be brought by Jim & Kathy Bricker, and Ann & Roger Benter. After enjoying edible treats, we will share nature sightings, hear about upcoming field trips, and decide how to disburse grant funds for 2015.

October Program

“Sound as an Indicator of Ecosystem Health: Sex and the Soundscape” October 14, 2015

Program Schedule

Straits Area Audubon Society 2015/2016 Program Schedule

September 9, 2015

“Forest Management: It's For the Birds”
By: Brittany VanderWall, Forester - MDNR

October 14, 2015

“Sound as an Indicator of Ecosystem Health: Sex and the Soundscape”
By: Stuart H Gage - Global Observatory for Ecosystem Services, MSU

November 11, 2015

“Bring It Cheboygan: Reducing Plastic Bag Waste”
By David Martin - Straits Area Concerned Citizens for Peace and Justice and the Environment

December 9, 2015

“Potluck and Member Slide Fest”
By: SAAS members

January 13, 2016

“Adventures in Peru and Ecuador”
By: Doug Fuller and Martha Lancaster

February 10, 2016

“Kirtland's Warbler Initiative: Sustaining the Success”
By: Abigail Ertel - Huron Pines

March 9, 2016

“Frogs of Michigan and Their Voices”
By: Jim McGrath - Nature Discovery

April 13, 2016

“Plight of the Monarch” Film
By: Kirby and Cindy Pringle - Dogtown Artworks, IL

May 11, 2016

“Bird Song of the Spring Woods: Identifying Birds by Ear”
By: Gerard Lillie, Audubon Society of Portland, OR

June 8, 2016

“Hike and Potluck”

Field Trip Reports

Kirkland's Warbler Field Trip Report

Submitted by: Diane Matthews

A group of 9 SAAS members had a great morning in the sand country along highway M-33 between Onaway and Atlanta on Monday, June 29. The principal aim was to see and hear Kirtland's warblers before they get quiet and start back for the Bahamas. We found a cooperative bird in good light and in good voice at our first stop. A number of other Kirtland's were heard, but only a few more fleeting glimpses were made. Besides young jack pine habitat, stops were made at Tomahawk Lake and Tomahawk Creek Flooding. At Tomahawk Creek, Mike Grant identified a number of dragonflies and damselflies that put on nice displays. Along for the trip were Jean Moberly, Diane Morand, Karen Busch, Diane Matthews, Mike Grant, Chris Grant, Esther Summers, Cyndi Kress, and Glen Matthews, trip guide.

28 species of birds were noted, despite the absence of some we expected or hoped to see:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Great Blue Heron | Common Raven | American Crow |
| Kirtland's Warbler | Nashville Warbler | Common Yellowthroat |
| Pine Warbler | Ovenbird | White-throated Sparrow |
| Brown Thrasher | Chipping Sparrow | Black-capped Chickadee |
| Field Sparrow | Vesper Sparrow | Rose-breasted grosbeak |
| Song sparrow | Tree swallow | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Eastern Bluebird | Hermit Thrush | Alder Flycatcher |
| Eastern Kingbird | Blue Jay | Yellow-billed Cuckoo |
| Robin | Common Grackle | Common Loon |
| Gull, species?? | | |



Photo by: Diane Matthews

Birding at Twin Lakes

Submitted by: Al Moberly

On Friday, July 24, 2015, several Straits Area Audubon Society members kayaked and canoed on Twin Lakes southeast of Cheboygan. All were in the water by 7:30 am and enjoyed paddling the quiet waters in the wilderness-like setting. Participating in the outing were Tom and Gloria Cadwalader, Herm and Darlene Boatin, Al and Jean Moberly, and Mike and Chris Grant.

Susan Page, Twin Lakes resident and president of their lake association, provided lots of information about the chain of pristine lakes.

The lake is regulated for quiet usage with slow speeds and no pulling of floats or skiers by vessels. Twin Lakes is completely spring fed with water leaving the lake over a small dam in the northwest corner, flowing via a small creek into the Black River. Susan was assisted by Veronica Smith and *Juli Moore who aided in bird identification. Birds seen or heard:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sandhill Crane | Great Blue Heron |
| Common Loon w/1 juvenile | Eastern Phoebe |
| Common Yellowthroat | Black-capped Chickadee |
| Eastern Kingbird | Red-winged Blackbird |
| Common Grackle | American Robin |
| Mourning Dove | American Goldfinch |
| Song Sparrow | Cedar Waxwing |
| Red-eyed Vireo | Mallard |
| Northern Cardinal | Downy Woodpecker |
| Hairy Woodpecker | Northern Flicker |
| Turkey Vulture | *White-throated Sparrow |
| *Swamp Sparrow | *Pileated Woodpecker |



Photo by: Al Moberly

Scheduled Field Trips

Walk the Railroad Grade and Green Timbers Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Submitted by: Donna Mittlestat

Come and join us on, Tuesday, September 15, 2015. We will visit some very productive bird habitat on the railroad grade and in the Pigeon River Country with Don and Donna Mittlestat. We will walk a section of the railroad grade and see how a beaver site has changed over the years along with a good chance of seeing several species of migratory birds. We will also travel an extensive field and savannah habitat for great bird sightings. Lunch after at the Thirsty Sturgeon if interested and if open. Call Donna and Don for details and sign up (906-201-0285). We will cancel if raining.

Forest Habitat and our Area Birds September 21, 2015 (9:30 am)

Contact: Al Moberly

Brittany VanderWall, presenter of "Forest Management - It's for the birds" at our September 9th meeting, will lead this field trip at **Cheboygan State Park**. She will illustrate the importance of forest habitat to birds in our area. We will meet at the trailhead parking lot at 9:30 am on Monday, September 21, 2015, for a one hour walk. We hope to see you there!

Beach Walk & Potluck Thursday, September 24, 2015

Submitted by: Ann Benter

A beach walk and potluck will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2015, at the Benter's (4803 Grass Bay Trail, Cheboygan). The walk will be lead by Steve Baker and will be at 3:00 pm followed by a potluck at 5:00 pm. Bring a dish to pass and your table service and join us for a "Fall" look at the changes on the beach since our June event.



Sandhill Cranes at Rudyard Friday, September 25, 2015

Submitted by: Steve Baker

Photos by: Steve Baker

Steve Baker will lead a field trip on Friday, September 25, 2015, to view the Sandhill Cranes. Every autumn the Sandhill Cranes gather in large flocks as they prepare to migrate south. The hayfields of the Rudyard area are a favorite gathering spot and often hundreds can be seen feeding in the fields. Join Steve as we search for these stately birds and hear their prehistoric sounding cackling. Meet in Mackinaw City at 8:30 am at the State Welcome Center/Rest Stop. If weather is questionable, please call Steve (231-238-8723) to see if the trip is still on.



Soundscape Field Trip October 15, 2015

Contact: Al Moberly

On Thursday, October 15, 2015, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon there will be a Soundscape field trip near Twin Lakes. This is a follow-up to the SAAS program by Dr Stuart Gage on October 14. We will meet at the Gage cabin at 9:30 AM, 9929 Crawford Lane, Cheboygan, MI 49721-(Directions: Twin Lakes Rd to Smith Rd (on way to Twin Lakes Campground) then left at first set of mail boxes (Crawford Lane) then right past new garage to Gage cabin (owl sign in the woods)).

The field trip will involve collection of digital recordings from a nearby Song Meter which records the soundscape for 1 minute every 30 minutes 24/7. Then we will copy the recordings to a hard drive and listen to some of the recordings. Then we will compute soundscape indices from a selected full day of recordings (48 recordings). We will display pictures of the recordings to see the patterns in the soundscape. We will then discuss what we hear and see. We will point to a web site where we can hear and see lots of recordings. If you bring a USB stick you can have the recordings we examine.

Other Events

Midwest Birding Symposium September 10-13, 2015

Submitted by: Judy Frock - MSRW

MSRW (Mackinac Straits Raptor Watch) is very pleased to be a part of the Midwest Birding Symposium to be held in Bay City, Michigan from September 10 - 13 with the festival headquarters at the DoubleTree Hotel. There will be hundreds of birders from the U.S. enjoying birding tours, workshops, speakers and vendors. MSRW will have a booth and will be spreading the word about our Straits Area opportunity to view migrating raptors and owl banding. It's not too late to join in the fun ! For more information, go to: www.midwestbirding.org/ . If you have not already registered, walk-in registrations will be accepted beginning at noon September 10th at festival headquarters.

Oil Spill in the Great Lakes?: How Safe are the Pipelines?

Program invitation from: For Love Of Water (FLOW)
Submitted by: Glen Matthews

Please attend this important talk on Wednesday, September 30, 6:30 pm at the Cheboygan Area Public Library. Speaker Ed Timm, Ph.D., a retired chemical engineer from Dow Chemical, has studied the design and condition of the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline which runs the entire length of Michigan. Carrying oil from Canada and North Dakota, Line 5 traverses at least 45 Michigan waterways before crossing the St. Clair River to a refinery in Sarnia, Ontario. Says Dr. Timm, "Using Enbridge's own data, I calculated that the non-Straits sections of Line 5 have, on the average, lost 45% of their wall thickness due to internal and external corrosion." The two pipelines across the Straits of Mackinac transport 23 million gallons of oil every day. This outstanding talk about the history and integrity of the pipeline is scientific, yet understandable to the lay person and is free to the public.

For those who might care to read the Governor's Task Force report, here's a link to it : [DEQ - Final Task Force Report and Appendices](#)

News of Interest

A New Hummingbird Species Revealed

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader

Following is an email Tom received from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He receives a newsletter and emails from them in conjunction with their iPad/iPhone app. "Merlin Bird ID" (Available at the App Store)



The Inaguan Woodstar, named as a new species (right), was formerly lumped with the Bahama Woodstar (left). Differences in the tail feathers produce distinctive sounds and visual displays. Photo by [Anand Varma](#).

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The American Ornithologists' Union has named a new hummingbird species, the Inaguan Woodstar. A member of the Bee Hummingbird group, it was formerly lumped with the similar-looking Bahama Woodstar. Scientists from Yale, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the University of California, Riverside, found differences in song, behavior, physical measurements, and DNA sequences suggesting that the species have been separated genetically for half a million years. To learn more about these dazzling Caribbean hummingbirds and the backyard clues that led to a new species go to: <http://blog.allaboutbirds.org/2015/02/20/one-backyard-hummingbird-species-becomes-two/>

Monarchs at Risk

Submitted by: Glen Matthews

Photo by: Tom Cadwalader

Monarchs face many risks that are resulting in declining populations in both the eastern and western parts of their North American range. The largest impacts come from the loss of habitat for breeding, migrating, and overwintering. In addition, pesticides that are used to control insects and weeds have harmful unintended consequences for monarchs, a changing climate may be making some habitat less suitable and forcing changes in migratory patterns, and monarchs face many risks from natural enemies, such as predators, parasitoids, and diseases. Go to the following website for more information. <http://monarchjointventure.org/threats/> or go to www.monarchjointventure.org/threats/



Activities of MSRW for 2014 and 2015

Submitted by: Ed Pike

2014: A Raptor Watch was conducted from March 15 through June 4, 2014 at the Mackinac Straits just west of Mackinaw City, in Emmet County. A professional Hawk Counter was hired to conduct the count with the assistance of volunteers from MSRW. Four hundred and eighty one hours of observation occurred over 69 days, with 13 days no count conducted due to poor weather conditions. A total of 43,191 raptors were counted. This count was extended for a longer period (through May) than previous counts; which doubled the number of hours observed and of raptors counted. There were over 350 visits to the Raptor Watch during the survey period. Also counted were Sandhill Crane 1238, Common Loon 231, and White Pelican 13.

Summer 2014 a web site was created, MackinacRaptorWatch.org. Fall 2014 a Facebook page was established.

An Owl Survey was conducted from September 20 through November 10, 2014 at Point LaBarbe just west of St. Ignace, Mackinac County. A Professional Bander was hired to conduct the surveys by mist netting with the assistance of volunteers. A total of 233 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 4 Barred Owls were captured. Eight of the N. Saw-whet Owls were foreign retraps (previously banded by other banders). The rest of the N. Saw-whet Owls and the Barred Owls had bands placed on their legs and were released.

2015: A Raptor Watch was conducted from March 8 through June 6, 2015 at the Mackinac Straits just west of Mackinaw City, in Emmet Co. The count period started earlier and extended later than in 2014 due to the observations occurring in 2014. A professional Hawk Counter was hired to conduct the count with the assistance of volunteers from MSRW. A total of 613 hrs. of observation occurred during the survey period which resulted in the counting of 50,399 raptors migrating across the Straits. Again in 2015 increased coverage from the previous year lead to increased numbers of raptors being counted, better describing the migration period. As in past years Common Loons, Sandhill Cranes, and White Pelicans were counted. There were over 700 visits to the Hawk Watch this spring.

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An Owl Survey was conducted from March 18 through May 2, 2015 at Cheboygan State Park. Lighthouse Point, Cheboygan Co. (Due to unforeseen circumstances the survey was shortened by 2 weeks) Two professional banders were hired to conduct the surveys by mist netting with the assistance of volunteers. Surveys occurred on 40 nights during the period with 281 hrs. of survey. This effort resulted in the capture of 132 N. Saw-whet Owls, 4 Barred Owls, and 4 Long-eared Owls. Eleven of the N. Saw-whet Owls were foreign retraps having been banded by other banders. The rest were banded and released. These foreign retraps came from Whitefish Point, Mich., Point LaBarbe from 2014, New Hampshire, Ontario, and Indiana (these retraps give information about the travels and life span of the Owls).

Plans are in place to conduct Owl Surveys and an initial Waterbird survey at the Straits in the fall of 2015.

Numerous media contacts were made by MSRW volunteers in 2014 and 2015 resulting in numerous articles in Newspapers, reports in other publications and radio interviews. Presentations describing the Surveys were made by MSRW volunteers to various groups including local Audubons, Harbor Springs Historical Society, Michigan Garden Club Convention, Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative Meeting, and plans are underway to have a booth at the Midwest Birding Symposium at Bay City in the fall of 2015.

FINAL RAPTOR COUNT

Submitted by: Judy Frock

Turkey Vulture 3,448	Osprey 121
Golden Eagle 374	Bald Eagle 685
Northern Harrier 55	Sharp-shinned Hawk 1,747
Coopers Hawk 17	Northern Goshawk 4
Red-shouldered Hawk 75	Broad-winged Hawk 34,328
Red-tailed Hawk 9,334	Rough-legged Hawk 125
Ferruginous Hawk 0	Swainson's Hawk 1
American Kestrel 41	Merlin 27
Peregrine Falcon 17	

MSRW Waterbird Count 8/24-25/2015

Submitted by: Ed Pike

On Monday, Aug. 24th Steve Baker and Ed Pike counted waterbirds at McGalpin Point; it was windy (10-15 mph) from the West and cloudy with temps in the low 60's. We counted for 3 hours and as another of our counters found the first hour was the most active. Hopefully things will pick up as fall arrives.

We are only counting waterbirds that appear to be migrating: 8 Common Loons, 3 White-winged Scoters, 13 Mallards, 1 Caspian Tern, a flock of 16 Great Egrets and 1 unidentified Sandpiper. We also counted 2 Horned Grebes swimming by, and 3 Bald Eagles flying from the UP to the lower and headed south. Interestingly the 2 adult Bald Eagles and the Egrets were all flying just above the waves.

On Tuesday Ed Pike returned to count and found it very quiet with higher winds from the West to Northwest (12-18mph w/gusts in the 20's) and drizzle and light rain till I left at 9:30. I counted 1 immature Bald Eagle flying from the UP to the lower and 1 Great Egret fighting the winds flying from the Northeast headed to the Southwest. An interesting start to the waterbird count.

SAAS Chapter Notes

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by: Rose Rynerson

Please join me in welcoming our newest members, Karen and Hank Jallo. Our community of birders keeps growing!

Invoices were recently mailed out for our September, 2015 through May, 2016 Season dues to fund the upcoming programs. Thank you for the quick responses.

It looks to be another terrific year for learning a variety of nature topics. I look forward to seeing you all again!

SAAS General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by: Diane Morand, Secretary

Date: May 13, 2015

Attendance: 42 members and 8 guests for a total of 50

Program: Six-Legged Obsession: Why I Look Down
By: Mike Grant

He began the program with questions for the audience and presented small plastic insects to the answerers. With great slides to demonstrate his talk, we learned interesting facts about three Orders of insects: the Odonata - dragonflies and damsel flies; Lepidoptera - butterflies and moths; and Coleoptera - beetles.

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President Dale Giddings welcomed those in attendance, announced Big Birding Day on May 18th and the June 10th meeting at the Benter's with a hike at 3: p.m. and pot-luck dinner at 5: p.m. Pledge sheets for Big Birding Day were passed for people to make their pledges.

The slate of officers for next year was presented: Judi Chimner moved and Roger Benter seconded a motion to accept the slate. Motion passed unanimously.

Special thanks were given to Roy MacFarland (webmaster), Jack Kirby (Kettle editor), and Donna Mittlestat (field trip coordinator and MAS rep.) who are retiring from their positions.

Steve Baker gave a brief report of Raptor Watch highlights.

Bev Kirby led the nature sightings.

Refreshments given by Gloria and Tom Cadwalader and Kathy and Jim Bricker were enjoyed by all.

Door prizes bird puzzles were won by Jack Kirby and Kathy Bricker.

Raffle prizes were won by Glenn Matthews, Diane Morand and Roy MacFarland.

On behalf of the SAAS, Ben Lillie thanked volunteers.

SAAS General Meeting Minutes

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau, Secretary

June Program - SAAS Nature Hike and Potluck

The annual nature hike and potluck was hosted by Roger and Ann Benter with the nature hike starting at 3:00 pm followed by the potluck. Kathy Bricker spoke about the accomplishments made by our outgoing president Dale Giddings during his 3 year as president.

We still needed a field trip coordinator for which Al Moberly volunteered. Thanks again Roger and Ann for hosting this potluck. Nature sightings were shared with Bev Kirby leading the discussion.

Officer and Volunteer Meeting & Potluck

Submitted by: Janet Trudeau, Secretary

Photos by: Al Moberly

On July 30th volunteers and elected officers met at Jim and Kathy Bricker's lake home at 4:00 pm for a potluck and informal meeting. Discussed was setting goals, duties and sharing information. Also discussed was how grants would be spent for the coming year. Suggestions were for the use of the Library, Earth Week Plus, MSRW, to Ed Pike, and Kirtland Warblers.

A motion was made by David Bricker to further discuss this at our next meeting. It was seconded by Al Moberly. Seventeen members were present.



On Line Extras

Submitted by: Tom Cadwalader

On a beautiful summer morning the kayaks and canoes make small ripples in the still waters of Twin Lakes. Off in the distance we can hear the calls of loons. As the group rounds the point, a swimming loon appears a short distance away. It is unconcerned about the strangers in brightly colored boats. The loon calls loudly to us... or its mate. It doesn't matter to whom the loon speaks... there is just something magical about being on the water and hearing their voice. If you were not able to be there you sure missed out.



Photo by: Al Moberly

But we do have a trip report in the Kettle.... complete with a few pictures. Al Moberly took even more pictures than we had room for and Tom Cadwalader took video of the loon with his iPhone camera and captured the calls. But, as with the extra pictures Al took, Tom's video also doesn't appear in the print. We can change that.

Starting with this issue of the Kettle, the extra pictures and sometimes video will be available to the Kettle readers. The Kettle now has a Dropbox account and each month Tom will put the extra pictures and other interesting shots (and video clips) in a folder on Dropbox. All you, the reader, has to do is click on the provided link and you can see this extra content. For those who get the Kettle by snail mail you are not entirely left out, you can take the link info and type the information into your computer's browser and get the extra content.

The pictures and videos will have a retention limit of one year. If you take some nature pictures and think they might be of interest to our members send them along to: kettleeditor@gmail.com

For September the extra content can be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dc6bgioquhg01n4/AABiLxKTs0W5dh4VyDPADv7pa?oref=e&n=221071523>

The photographers are sharing their work with the readers. By virtue of submitting their pictures to the Kettle they are granting permission to **view** their work. Permission should be obtained before downloading or copying any of the pictures or videos.

Hint For Using Dropbox:

On a Mac Computer after clicking on the dropbox link a folder inside dropbox will open (takes a few seconds), a group of large thumbnails of the pictures will appear. Double click on the first picture to view it, use the right arrow key to move through the remaining pictures. The escape key will return you to the list view.

On an iPad the folder will open with a list view complete with the thumbnails of the pictures. Double click on the top thumbnail to open that picture/video. From there you should swipe to view the remainder of the pictures. Cancel to quit.

On a Windows Computer... you are on your own :>)

For Your Information

Please save this Data for future Reference!

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Meeting Space Provider Donation: **Cheboygan Area
Public Library (Mel Eno)** - 231-627-2381
eno.melanie@cheboyganlibrary.org

Nature Links

Michigan Audubon Society
www.michiganaudubon.org
MNA [Michigan Nature Association]
www.michigannature.org
The Nature Conservancy
<http://nature.org/greatlakes>
Little Traverse Conservancy
www.landtrust.org
Whitefish Point Bird Observatory
www.wpbo.org
HMANA Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch
[http://hawkcount.org/
month_summary.php?rsite=613](http://hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=613)
Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch
www.MackinacRaptorWatch.org

Note from the Editors:

All articles and photos for **THE KETTLE** should be submitted to the editors' email box (kettleeditor@gmail.com) one week BEFORE the end of a publication month. This will allow the email edition to be sent out by the 1st of the month and the printed edition to be mailed by the 4th. Thank you - Gloria Cadwalader, Publication Editor and Tom Cadwalader, Photo/Technical Editor.

SAAS THANKS:

Williams Office Equipment for donating printing costs for **The Kettle**. Please consider them for all your Computer, Copier, Printer, and Fax needs.
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